

Central Intelligence Agency

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Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 84-0138
Ref OLL 83-1754/B

17 JAN 1984

The Honorable Stephen J. Solarz, Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In your letter of 28 December 1983, you asked that I reconsider my decision not to declassify the study on North Korean society written by [redacted]. I have looked into the matter again but believe my original decision should stand. The study, while containing much interesting data, is quite bulky and was never developed by [redacted] into a form suitable for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) publication. As you are aware, we have already devoted quite a lot of time and talent to preparing and publishing a coherent summary of the study that effectively captures its intelligence value.

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The original study itself is being retained as a resource document readily available to those with the proper security clearances. Moreover, as I explained in my letter of 9 August, the release of such unclassified CIA reports creates political and other problems which are not balanced by commensurate benefits to US interests or the general public. On this point, I believe that the totalitarian nature of the North Korean government is now fairly well understood. Certainly after the Rangoon bombing there are few, if any, lingering illusions, within the Third World and even among other Communist states, about North Korea's brutal and repressive nature.

The destruction of [redacted] working files referred to in your letter of 28 December occurred last October as part of a routine and mandated periodic file reduction

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process. They actually were retained longer than usually is the case with files of former employees. The files were discarded only after my decision of last August not to issue the study as an unclassified document. Incidentally, since [redacted] had keyed specific intelligence reports only to broad areas of the study, her files would not have been all that helpful in sanitizing it.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - EXDIR
- 1 - ER
- 1 - OGC, [redacted]
- 1 - NIO/EA
- 1 - ODDI
- 1 - D/OEA 1 - C/EA/DDO
- 1 - D/OLL
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- 1 - C/OLL/LD
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**Office of East Asian Analysis
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE**

4 January 1984

NOTE FOR:

Legislative Liaison

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Here is a suggested draft response from the DCI to Solarz. Bob Gates, Dave Gries, and of the DDO are all on board. Dave is a little uneasy with the last paragraph in that he is uncertain as to what Agency policy has been in the past and what the legal circumstances are. He suggests flying this by OGC at an appropriate level. I think that is a good idea but I also think that a policy of letting former employees publish under their name work carried out during their official duty here would be a catastrophe.

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Given the fact that Solarz and will certainly not be satisfied with this response and in all likelihood be coming back at us once more, I think you ought to get Clair George to focus on this.

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Director

Attachment:

As stated

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28 December 1983

NOTE FOR: D/OEA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] would like you to check in with OLL on this action. He feels downgrading is a bad idea.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

EA/ADDI

cc: D/OLL

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DDI 83-1754/A

83-1754/A

09 AUG 1983

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The Honorable Stephen J. Solarz
 Chairman, Subcommittee on Asian
 and Pacific Affairs
 Committee on Foreign Affairs
 House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Solarz:

Thank you for your letter of 25 July and for your kind words on the study on North Korean society written by [redacted] I agree with you that it is a fine piece of work that underscores the totalitarian nature of the North Korean Government.

25X1

Unfortunately, however, declassifying that study could result in the loss of sources of critical information. In addition to the risk to intelligence sources and methods and liaison relationships, release of such reports creates political, legal, and other problems which are not balanced by commensurate benefit to US interests or the general public. We continue to make many of our statistical reports available to the public and occasionally make sanitized analytic reports available through other government agencies or Congressional committees. In the case of Helen's paper, however, if we deleted all of the portions of her report that needed continued protection, we would be left without a very coherent study.

I regret, therefore, that I cannot approve declassification of the recent report on North Korea.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

William J. Casey
 Director of Central Intelligence

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BM

5 January 1984

NOTE FOR:

[Redacted]

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Office of General Counsel

FROM:

Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT:

Request from Representative Solarz re Declassifying Study
on North Korean Society Written by Helen Louise Hunter

[Redacted]

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1. Here is the material we talked about yesterday concerning the request by Congressman Solarz to declassify a paper done by a former employee. DDI's draft reply for the DCI's signature is attached. I propose it go as I edited it. In my view, the last paragraph in the draft letter must be deleted.

2. Please let me have your comments ASAP.

[Redacted]

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Attachments

cc: OLL

[Redacted]

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1 - D/OLL

1 - DD/OLL

[Redacted]

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4 January 1984

NOTE FOR: [REDACTED]

Legislative Liaison

25X1

Pat,

Here is a suggested draft response from the DCI to Solarz. Rob Gates, Dave Gries, and [REDACTED] of the DDO are all on board. Dave is a little uneasy with the last paragraph in that he is uncertain as to what Agency policy has been in the past and what the legal circumstances are. He suggests flying this by OGC at an appropriate level. I think that is a good idea but I also think that a policy of letting former employees publish under their name work carried out during their official duty here would be a catastrophe.

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As stated

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Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CH. B
Y3-1754/B

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.
CHIEF OF STAFF

December 28, 1983

Hon. William Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Casey:

On July 25, 1983 I wrote to you suggesting that the study of North Korean society by [redacted] be declassified and published so as to make known widely the totalitarian nature of the Pyongyang regime. You replied on August 9 that while you agreed the study was a fine piece of work, declassifying it would result in the loss of so many sources of critical information that it would not be possible.

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I was disappointed by this decision, and have had my staff discuss the matter extensively with members of the Agency as well as with [redacted] Agency officials have said that removing the sensitive material would leave large gaps in the study, and that the remaining evidence would not support the major conclusions of the study. However, [redacted] believes that no more than 10 percent of the material would have to be deleted, while Agency specialists estimate that about 20 percent would need to be deleted. One problem the Agency is concerned about is that the full report (not the shortened version published by as an Agency report in classified form) is not sourced in the normal manner, and thus any firm estimate is difficult to make. My staff checked with [redacted] and she said that a chapter by chapter list of citations had been left, along with the reports themselves, in the files when she resigned from the Agency.

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Under these circumstances, it should not have been difficult to see whether or not declassifying the report was feasible. When my staff made this point to Agency officials, they reported that those files had recently been destroyed, a decision I find hard to understand. Agency officials also stated that they estimate it would take about 50 hours of work by someone who works on that country to go through the study and source it from the master files on North Korea.



In the wake of the barbaric murder of senior ROK leaders in Rangoon by North Korea, I urge you to reexamine this whole matter. If after sourcing and declassifying the study the Agency felt there were such important gaps that the non-classified evidence did not support the conclusions, and [redacted] disagreed, is there any 25X1 reason she could not publish it under her own name?

In view of the importance of bringing home to more people around the world the repressive nature of the North Korean regime, I urge that a serious effort be made to get as much of this material as possible into the public domain. I think it would benefit both the United States and South Korea to an extent that would readily warrant the work involved. It would also be useful in dealing with Third World countries, some of whom still have an impression of North Korea as an egalitarian society rather than one in which a person's class origins determine his or her life-long position in society.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN SOLARZ
Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian
and Pacific Affairs

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DDI 5401-83/1

83-1754/A

09 AUG 1983

H/FAC

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Chairman, Subcommittee on Asian
and Pacific Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
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Unfortunately, however, declassifying that study could result in the loss of sources of critical information. In addition to the risk to intelligence sources and methods and liaison relationships, release of such reports creates political, legal, and other problems which are not balanced by commensurate benefit to US interests or the general public. We continue to make many of our statistical reports available to the public and occasionally make sanitized analytic reports available through other government agencies or Congressional committees. In the case of [redacted] paper, however, if we deleted all of the portions of her report that needed continued protection, we would be left without a very coherent study.

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I regret, therefore, that I cannot approve declassification of the recent report on North Korea.

Sincerely,

W. J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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5 January 1984

NOTE FOR: [redacted]

Office of General Counsel

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FROM:

Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT:

Request from Representative Solarz re Declassifying Study
on North Korean Society Written by [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

Attachments

cc: OLL [redacted]

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1 - OLL [redacted]

DD/OLL:EM:mig (5 Jan 1984)

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